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REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 remain pending in the application including independent claim 1.

The amendments to claims 1 and 20 are not related to any rejection or objection set forth in the current official action. Claims 1 and 20 have solely been amended to provide proper antecedent basis.

Claims 1-3 and 6-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Okada.

The examiner admits that Yamada does not disclose a motor that is driven in a single direction to move the output member from the first output position to the second output position and that is driven in the single direction to move the output member from the second output position to the first output position. The examiner argues that Okada discloses this feature and that it would have been obvious "to drive the motor in a single direction as taught by Okada et al in the system of Yamada as it simplifies the control circuit (current only needs to flow in one direction.)" Applicant disagrees.

The examiner's proposed modification cannot render the prior art unsatisfactory for its intended purpose and cannot change the principle of operation of the base reference. See MPEP 2143.01. As clearly explained in applicant's prior response, the examiner's proposed modification would clearly change the principle of operation of Yamada and would render Yamada unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. If a motor powered in a single direction were incorporated into Yamada, the cam follower 76 would move along the cam groove 70 only in a single direction as well. One of ordinary skill in the art would have viewed a single-direction

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motor as being wholly inappropriate for the system in Yamada because the entire structure of Yamada depends on a dual-direction motor.

In response to applicant's arguments, the examiner now argues that in addition to modifying Yamada to include a single drive motor as taught by Okada, further modification is required for the groove structure 70. Specifically, the examiner argues that extensive redesign would not be required in Yamada because the object of Yamada is to redesign the groove so that the follower 76 can move through the groove from one end to the other by means of the motor. Further, the examiner argues that as "the cam is designed for the follower to be able to move through the channel, no reconfiguration would be necessary." Applicant disagrees.

Again, the examiner's proposed modification changes the principle of operation of Yamada and renders Yamada unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. Modifying the groove in Yamada to accommodate being driven in a single direction would eliminate a positional stop in Yamada that is required for proper operation of Yamada. Specifically, Yamada requires a positional stop for the motor to run up against to cause a momentary stall. The examiner's modification of the groove would eliminate this stop, which would result in the device of Yamada stopping randomly, i.e. not in a controlled manner, such that locking and unlocking would be unreliable.

Yamada states that a cam follower 76 normally stops at end 70A or 70B of cam groove 70. Further, Yamada states that when the cam follower 76 abuts against the wall of the communicating groove 71, the disc 62 cannot be rotated. Thus, the walls of the communicating groove 71 are specifically configured to provide a stop so that the actuator stops in the correct

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position. The modifications proposed by the examiner will eliminate this stop feature, resulting in unreliable operation of the actuator. An example is given to clarify this argument.

The following hypothetical example is provided for illustrative purposes only. In this example, a door locking system includes an electrical actuator that is powered with a pulse for .8 of a second to move associated door components. However, it may actually only take .2 of a second for the various components to move into their new positions, whereupon the motor will then be stalled for .6 of a second. However, if an actuator power source is low on power, and/or if weather conditions are cold, and/or if the components have worn over time, it would take longer for the components to move into their new positions. In any of these situations, instead of taking .2 of a second to move the components, it may take .6 of a second to move the components, which means that the motor will only be stalled for .2 of a second. The overall duration of the pulse for the motor (in this example .8 of a second) must be selected such that under all conditions (low power, cold temperatures, worn components, etc.) the associated components will have sufficient time to move to their new positions, however, this duration also should not be too long such that the motor stalls for too long of a time period. Long stall times could cause the motor to overheat.

If Yamada were modified in the manner suggested by the examiner, the actuator would stop randomly at the end of its time pulse, which would be .8 of a second in the above example. There would be no stop to ensure that the actuator would stop in the correct position. The examiner's modification of Yamada renders Yamada unsatisfactory for its intended purpose and changes the principle of operation of Yamada. Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is improper and applicant respectfully requests that it be withdrawn.

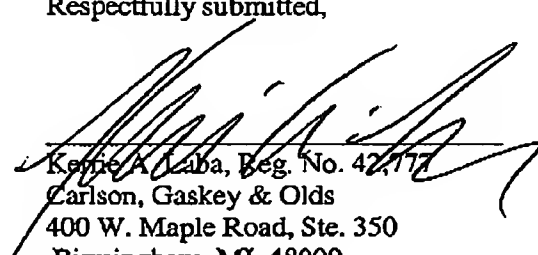
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Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Bridgeman et al. For the reasons set forth above, Yamada does not disclose the features of claim 1, from which claim 4 depends. Bridgeman does not make up for the deficiencies of Yamada.

Further, Bridgeman does not disclose, suggest, or teach a motor that is driven in a single direction to move the output member from the first output position to the second output position and that is driven in the single direction to move the output member from the second output position to the first output position (which the examiner has admitted is not taught by Yamada). The examiner has not provided any arguments detailing where this feature is disclosed in Bridgeman. Thus, the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Yamada as modified by Bridgeman is improper and must be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,




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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (703) 872-9306, on March 24, 2005.



Laura Combs